

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

JOHN THOMPSON, Individually and On
Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

V.

WRIGHT MEDICAL GROUP N.V., GARY D. BLACKFORD, JOHN L. MICLOT, ROBERT J. PALMISANO, DAVID D. STEVENS, ELIZABETH H. WEATHERMAN, J. PATRICK MACKIN, KEVIN C. O'BOYLE, AMY S. PAUL, RICHARD F. WALLMAN, STRYKER CORPORATION, and STRYKER B.V.,

Defendants.

Case No. _____

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

CLASS ACTION

COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATION OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Plaintiff, by his undersigned attorneys, for this complaint against defendants, alleges upon personal knowledge with respect to himself, and upon information and belief based upon, *inter alia*, the investigation of counsel as to all other allegations herein, as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This action stems from a proposed transaction announced on November 4, 2019 (the “Proposed Transaction”), pursuant to which Wright Medical Group N.V. (“Wright Medical” or the “Company”) will be acquired by Stryker Corporation (“Parent”) and Stryker B.V. (“Buyer,” and together with Parent, “Stryker”).

2. On November 4, 2019, Wright Medical’s Board of Directors (the “Board” or “Individual Defendants”) caused the Company to enter into an agreement and plan of merger (the “Merger Agreement”) with Stryker. Pursuant to the terms of the Merger Agreement, Buyer commenced a tender offer (the “Tender Offer”) to purchase all of Wright Medical’s outstanding

common stock for \$30.75 per share in cash. The Tender Offer is set to expire on February 27, 2020.

3. On December 13, 2019, defendants filed a Solicitation/Recommendation Statement (the “Solicitation Statement”) with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) in connection with the Proposed Transaction.

4. The Solicitation Statement omits material information with respect to the Proposed Transaction, which renders the Solicitation Statement false and misleading. Accordingly, plaintiff alleges herein that defendants violated Sections 14(e), 14(d), and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “1934 Act”) in connection with the Solicitation Statement.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

5. This Court has jurisdiction over all claims asserted herein pursuant to Section 27 of the 1934 Act because the claims asserted herein arise under Sections 14(e), 14(d), and 20(a) of the 1934 Act and Rule 14a-9.

6. This Court has jurisdiction over defendants because each defendant is either a corporation that conducts business in and maintains operations within this District, or is an individual with sufficient minimum contacts with this District so as to make the exercise of jurisdiction by this Court permissible under traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

7. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because a portion of the transactions and wrongs complained of herein occurred in this District.

PARTIES

8. Plaintiff is, and has been continuously throughout all times relevant hereto, the owner of Wright Medical common stock.

9. Defendant Wright Medical is a public limited liability company organized under the laws of the Netherlands and a party to the Merger Agreement. Wright Medical's common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the ticker symbol "WMGI."

10. Defendant Gary D. Blackford is a director of the Company.

11. Defendant John C. Miclot is a director of the Company.

12. Defendant Robert J. Palmisano is President, Chief Executive Officer, and a director of the Company.

13. Defendant David D. Stevens is Chairman of the Board of the Company.

14. Defendant Elizabeth H. Weatherman is a director of the Company.

15. Defendant J. Patrick Mackin is a director of the Company.

16. Defendant Kevin C. O Boyle is a director of the Company.

17. Defendant Amy S. Paul is a director of the Company.

18. Defendant Richard F. Wallman is a director of the Company.

19. The defendants identified in paragraphs 10 through 18 are collectively referred to herein as the "Individual Defendants."

20. Defendant Parent is a Michigan corporation and a party to the Merger Agreement.

21. Defendant Buyer is a private company organized under the laws of the Netherlands, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Parent, and a party to the Merger Agreement.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

22. Plaintiff brings this action as a class action on behalf of himself and the other public stockholders of Wright Medical (the "Class"). Excluded from the Class are defendants herein and any person, firm, trust, corporation, or other entity related to or affiliated with any defendant.

23. This action is properly maintainable as a class action.

24. The Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. As of November 1, 2019, there were approximately 126,900,005 shares of Wright Medical common stock outstanding, held by hundreds, if not thousands, of individuals and entities scattered throughout the country.

25. Questions of law and fact are common to the Class, including, among others, whether defendants will irreparably harm plaintiff and the other members of the Class if defendants' conduct complained of herein continues.

26. Plaintiff is committed to prosecuting this action and has retained competent counsel experienced in litigation of this nature. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the other members of the Class and plaintiff has the same interests as the other members of the Class. Accordingly, plaintiff is an adequate representative of the Class and will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class.

27. The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Class would create the risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications that would establish incompatible standards of conduct for defendants, or adjudications that would, as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of individual members of the Class who are not parties to the adjudications or would substantially impair or impede those non-party Class members' ability to protect their interests.

28. Defendants have acted, or refused to act, on grounds generally applicable to the Class as a whole, and are causing injury to the entire Class. Therefore, final injunctive relief on behalf of the Class is appropriate.

SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS

Background of the Company and the Proposed Transaction

29. Wright Medical is a global medical device company focused on extremities and

biologics products.

30. The Company is a recognized leader of surgical solutions for the upper extremity, lower extremity, and biologics markets, three of the fastest growing segments in orthopedics.

31. On November 4, 2019, Wright Medical's Board caused the Company to enter into the Merger Agreement with Stryker.

32. Pursuant to the terms of the Merger Agreement, Buyer commenced the Tender Offer to acquire all of Wright Medical's outstanding common stock for \$30.75 per share in cash.

33. According to the press release announcing the Proposed Transaction:

Wright Medical Group N.V. (NASDAQ: WMGI) today announced that it has entered into a definitive agreement under which Stryker (NYSE: SYK) will acquire all of the issued and outstanding ordinary shares of Wright Medical Group N.V. for a total equity value of approximately \$4.7 billion, including the value of Wright's outstanding convertible notes, and total enterprise value of approximately \$5.4 billion.

Under the terms of the agreement, Stryker will commence a tender offer for all outstanding ordinary shares of Wright for \$30.75 per share, in cash. The boards of directors of both Stryker and Wright have approved the transaction. The closing of the transaction is subject to receipt of applicable regulatory approvals, the adoption of certain resolutions relating to the transaction at an extraordinary general meeting of Wright's shareholders, completion of the tender offer and other customary closing conditions.

The offer of \$30.75 per share in cash represents a premium of 52% over the volume-weighted average closing price of Wright ordinary shares over the thirty calendar days ended October 31, 2019, the last trading day prior to speculation that Wright was exploring a sale of the company. The acquisition is expected to close in the second half of 2020. . . .

Advisors

In connection with the transaction, Guggenheim Securities is serving as lead financial advisor and J.P. Morgan Securities LLC is acting as financial advisor to Wright Medical. Ropes & Gray LLP is serving as legal counsel to Wright Medical.

The Solicitation Statement Omits Material Information, Rendering It False and Misleading

34. Defendants filed the Solicitation Statement with the SEC in connection with the

Proposed Transaction.

35. As set forth below, the Solicitation Statement omits material information with respect to the Proposed Transaction, which renders the Solicitation Statement false and misleading.

36. First, the Solicitation Statement omits material information regarding the Company's financial projections.

37. The Solicitation Statement fails to disclose, for each set of projections: (i) all line items used to calculate (a) Gross Profit, (b) Adjusted EBITDA, (c) Operating Income, (d) Unlevered Free Cash Flow, and (e) Non-operating Cash Flow; and (ii) a reconciliation of all non-GAAP to GAAP metrics.

38. The disclosure of projected financial information is material because it provides stockholders with a basis to project the future financial performance of a company, and allows stockholders to better understand the financial analyses performed by the company's financial advisor in support of its fairness opinion.

39. Second, the Solicitation Statement omits material information regarding the analyses performed by the Company's financial advisor in connection with the Proposed Transaction, Guggenheim Securities ("Guggenheim").

40. With respect to Guggenheim's Discounted Cash Flow Analysis, the Solicitation Statement fails to disclose: (i) the individual inputs and assumptions underlying the discount rate range of 7.03%-8.39% and the perpetual growth rate range of 2.0%-3.0%; (ii) the Company's terminal/continuing value; and (iii) the Company's net operating loss carryforwards.

41. With respect to Guggenheim's Wall Street Equity Research Analyst Stock Price Targets analysis, the Solicitation Statement fails to disclose: (i) the price targets observed by Guggenheim in the analysis; and (ii) the sources thereof.

42. With respect to Guggenheim's Precedent One-Day Stock Price Premiums analysis, the Solicitation Statement fails to disclose: (i) the transactions observed by Guggenheim in the analysis; and (ii) the premiums paid in the transactions.

43. When a banker's endorsement of the fairness of a transaction is touted to shareholders, the valuation methods used to arrive at that opinion as well as the key inputs and range of ultimate values generated by those analyses must also be fairly disclosed.

44. Third, the Solicitation Statement omits material information regarding the engagement of the Company's additional financial advisor, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC ("JPM").

45. The Solicitation Statement fails to disclose whether JPM has performed past services for any parties to the Merger Agreement or their affiliates, as well as the timing and nature of such services and the amount of compensation received or to be received by JPM for providing such services.

46. Full disclosure of investment banker compensation and all potential conflicts is required due to the central role played by investment banks in the evaluation, exploration, selection, and implementation of strategic alternatives.

47. The omission of the above-referenced material information renders the Solicitation Statement false and misleading, including, *inter alia*, the following section of the Solicitation Statement: The Solicitation or Recommendation.

48. The above-referenced omitted information, if disclosed, would significantly alter the total mix of information available to the Company's stockholders.

COUNT I

(Claim for Violation of Section 14(e) of the 1934 Act Against Defendants)

49. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the preceding allegations as if fully set forth herein.

50. Section 14(e) of the 1934 Act states, in relevant part, that:

It shall be unlawful for any person to make any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they are made, not misleading . . . in connection with any tender offer or request or invitation for tenders[.]

51. Defendants disseminated the misleading Solicitation Statement, which contained statements that, in violation of Section 14(e) of the 1934 Act, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, omitted to state material facts necessary to make the statements therein not misleading.

52. The Solicitation Statement was prepared, reviewed, and/or disseminated by defendants.

53. The Solicitation Statement misrepresented and/or omitted material facts in connection with the Proposed Transaction as set forth above.

54. By virtue of their positions within the Company and/or roles in the process and the preparation of the Solicitation Statement, defendants were aware of this information and their duty to disclose this information in the Solicitation Statement.

55. The omissions in the Solicitation Statement are material in that a reasonable shareholder will consider them important in deciding whether to tender their shares in connection with the Proposed Transaction. In addition, a reasonable investor will view a full and accurate disclosure as significantly altering the total mix of information made available.

56. Defendants knowingly or with deliberate recklessness omitted the material information identified above in the Solicitation Statement, causing statements therein to be materially incomplete and misleading.

57. By reason of the foregoing, defendants violated Section 14(e) of the 1934 Act.

58. Because of the false and misleading statements in the Solicitation Statement, plaintiff and the Class are threatened with irreparable harm.

59. Plaintiff and the Class have no adequate remedy at law.

COUNT II

(Claim for Violation of 14(d) of the 1934 Act Against Defendants)

60. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the preceding allegations as if fully set forth herein.

61. Section 14(d)(4) of the 1934 Act states:

Any solicitation or recommendation to the holders of such a security to accept or reject a tender offer or request or invitation for tenders shall be made in accordance with such rules and regulations as the Commission may prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors.

62. Rule 14d-9(d) states, in relevant part:

Any solicitation or recommendation to holders of a class of securities referred to in section 14(d)(1) of the Act with respect to a tender offer for such securities shall include the name of the person making such solicitation or recommendation and the information required by Items 1 through 8 of Schedule 14D-9 (§ 240.14d-101) or a fair and adequate summary thereof[.]

Item 8 requires that directors must “furnish such additional information, if any, as may be necessary to make the required statements, in light of the circumstances under which they are made, not materially misleading.”

63. The Solicitation Statement violates Section 14(d)(4) and Rule 14d-9 because it omits the material facts set forth above, which renders the Solicitation Statement false and/or misleading.

64. Defendants knowingly or with deliberate recklessness omitted the material information set forth above, causing statements therein to be materially incomplete and misleading.

65. The omissions in the Solicitation Statement are material to plaintiff and the Class, and they will be deprived of their entitlement to make a fully informed decision with respect to the Proposed Transaction if such misrepresentations and omissions are not corrected prior to the expiration of the tender offer.

66. Plaintiff and the Class have no adequate remedy at law.

COUNT III

(Claim for Violation of Section 20(a) of the 1934 Act Against the Individual Defendants and Stryker)

67. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the preceding allegations as if fully set forth herein.

68. The Individual Defendants and Stryker acted as controlling persons of Wright Medical within the meaning of Section 20(a) of the 1934 Act as alleged herein. By virtue of their positions as directors of Wright Medical and participation in and/or awareness of the Company's operations and/or intimate knowledge of the false statements contained in the Solicitation Statement filed with the SEC, they had the power to influence and control and did influence and control, directly or indirectly, the decision making of the Company, including the content and dissemination of the various statements that plaintiff contends are false and misleading.

69. Each of the Individual Defendants and Stryker was provided with or had unlimited access to copies of the Solicitation Statement alleged by plaintiff to be misleading prior to and/or shortly after these statements were issued and had the ability to prevent the issuance of the statements or cause them to be corrected.

70. In particular, each of the Individual Defendants had direct and supervisory involvement in the day-to-day operations of the Company, and, therefore, is presumed to have had the power to control and influence the particular transactions giving rise to the violations as alleged herein, and exercised the same. The Solicitation Statement contains the unanimous

recommendation of the Individual Defendants to approve the Proposed Transaction. They were thus directly connected with and involved in the making of the Solicitation Statement.

71. Stryker also had direct supervisory control over the composition of the Solicitation Statement and the information disclosed therein, as well as the information that was omitted and/or misrepresented in the Solicitation Statement.

72. By virtue of the foregoing, the Individual Defendants and Stryker violated Section 20(a) of the 1934 Act.

73. As set forth above, the Individual Defendants and Stryker had the ability to exercise control over and did control a person or persons who have each violated Section 14(e) of the 1934 Act and Rule 14a-9, by their acts and omissions as alleged herein. By virtue of their positions as controlling persons, these defendants are liable pursuant to Section 20(a) of the 1934 Act.

74. As a direct and proximate result of defendants' conduct, plaintiff and the Class are threatened with irreparable harm.

75. Plaintiff and the Class have no adequate remedy at law.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, plaintiff prays for judgment and relief as follows:

A. Enjoining defendants and all persons acting in concert with them from proceeding with, consummating, or closing the Proposed Transaction;

B. In the event defendants consummate the Proposed Transaction, rescinding it and setting it aside or awarding rescissory damages;

C. Directing the Individual Defendants to file a Solicitation Statement that does not contain any untrue statements of material fact and that states all material facts required in it or necessary to make the statements contained therein not misleading;

D. Declaring that defendants violated Sections 14(e), 14(d), and 20(a) of the 1934 Act, as well as Rule 14a-9 promulgated thereunder;

E. Awarding plaintiff the costs of this action, including reasonable allowance for plaintiff's attorneys' and experts' fees; and

F. Granting such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.

Dated: January 15, 2020

RIGRODSKY & LONG, P.A.

By: /s/ Gina M. Serra

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